

Message Text

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16

ACTION OES-02

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EA-06 EUR-08 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05

EB-03 SP-02 PM-03 L-01 IO-03 /053 W

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R 170706Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5296

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

ERDA GERMANTOWN

CONFIDENTIAL CANBERRA 1670

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: EALR, OVIP, TECH, EMIN, ENRG, AS

SUBJ: U.S. STOP-OVER OF MINISTER CONNOR

REF: A. CANBERRA 1618

B. STATE 44490 NOTAL

C. CANBERRA 770 NOTAL

1. BEGIN XGDS-1. EMBASSY ISSUED A-1 VISA TO MINERALS AND ENERGY MINISTER CONNOR MARCH 17 FOLLOWING INDIRECT, CONFIDENTIAL REQUEST RELAYED THROUGH THIRD PARTY. WE UNDERSTAND CONNOR WILL TRANSIT U.S., PROBABLY NEXT WEEK (MARCH 23-29), EN ROUTE TO UK AND PERHAPS OTHER EUROPEAN POINTS. SIR LENOX HEWITT, SECRETARY (PERMANENT HEAD) OF CONNOR'S DEPARTMENT OF MINERALS AND ENERGY, WHO ALREADY HAS VISA, MAY ACCOMPANY. CONNOR EVIDENTLY PLANS TO SPEND 1 OR 2 NIGHT STOP-OVER IN NEW YORK. NO OTHER DETAILS ARE AVAILABLE. CONNOR'S PRESS SECRETARY HAS ASKED USG TO HOLD WORD OF TRIP VERY TIGHTLY AND REQUESTED THAT NO RPT NO COURTESIES OR OTHER ATTENTIONS BE RENDERED TO MINISTER, WHO CONFIDENTIAL

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WANTS WHOLE TRIP KEPT AS SECRET AS POSSIBLE. EMBASSY HAS

ASSURED HIM USG WILL RESPECT THESE WISHES. END XGDS-1.

2. EMBASSY COMMENT: CONNOR'S FURTIVE MANNER OF REQUESTING VISA (HE HAS APPARENTLY NEVER VISITED U.S. BEFORE) ILLUSTRATES HIS PASSION FOR SECRECY. INSTEAD OF HAVING DEPT. OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS REQUEST VISA IN NOTE, THE CUSTOMARY PROCEDURE WHEN A GOA MINISTER PLANS OVERSEAS TRAVEL, CONNOR OBVIOUSLY SOUGHT TO KEEP DFA IN THE DARK BY RELAYING HIS REQUEST THROUGH PERSONAL FRIEND WHO IS ALSO ACQUAINTANCE OF POL COUNSELOR. WE PRESUME VISIT TO UK IS RELATED TO GOA INTEREST IN URENCO URANIUM ENRICHMENT TECHNOLOGY BUT CANNOT VERIFY THIS. PERSON RELAYING VISA REQUEST INDICATED CONNOR MIGHT VISIT U.S. IN JULY "DEPENDING ON OUTCOME" OF THIS TRIP.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE DONOT DISCUSS TRIP WITH U.S. BUSINESSMEN AT THIS STAGE. HOWEVER, WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION ON CONNOR'S ACTIVITIES IN NEW YORK, LONDON OR ELSEWHERE.

HARROP

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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